-- 24. A method according to claim 20 wherein said unit dosage comprises about 50 mg, on an acid active basis, of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof. --

-- 25. A method according to claim 19 wherein said unit dosage comprises about 1.5 to about 6000 μg/kg body weight of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof. --

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-- 26. A method according to claim 19 wherein said unit dosage comprises about 10 to about 2000 μg/kg body weight of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof. --

-- 27. A method according to any one of claims 17-26 wherein said unit dosage is in the form of a tablet. --

-- 28. A method according to any one of claims 17-26 wherein said unit dosage is in the form of a capsule. --

-- 29. A method according to any one of claims 17-26 wherein said unit dosage is in the form of a liquid. --

REMARKS

Claims 1 –16 have been cancelled without prejudice and replaced with new claims 17-29. In these new claims the method of use recites treating or preventing osteoporosis with the bisphosphonate being "ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof". Analogous claims, including claims directed to

ibandronate, had been found allowable in copending U.S. Application Serial Number 09/388,659.

Applicants earnestly request the allowance of claims 17-26 herein.

Respectfully submitted,

By________________________

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Enclosure

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